

to use private land by private land owners is paramount in H.R. 3676.

This bill's intent would not allow any federal administrative agency the existence of this proposed Monument to exact mitigation, money or other land use restrictions on private lands, directly or indirectly. The regulation of land use and authority over private lands inside or near to the Monument boundaries is solely vested in Local Government and is totally outside the purview of this bill.

In addition, I would like to emphasize that no existing Federal law or Federal Agency governing air quality, water quality or any other regulated resource shall seek to regulate or affect local land use control over private land near to or inside the Monument with any reference to a negative impact on this proposed National Monument by virtue of impacts on the above mentioned regulated resources.

So, we returned to the fundamental concept of how our system of government should work. I went directly to the people of the 44th district and sought their participation and input on how best to draft legislation that would reflect their commitment to both environmental preservation and private property rights protection. The result of their efforts is contained in the bill before you today.

Mr. Speaker, the best way our constituents can be heard on matters such as these is if Congress, not the Administration, takes this action. With all due respect to those who serve in Washington, the people who live in this area know better than any federal worker how to resolve these issues. Therefore, it was encouraging that early on, the Secretary of the Interior took a personal interest in this effort and publicly supported the Congressional process as the preferred vehicle for this designation. I thank the Secretary and Bureau of Land Management offices out of Washington, Sacramento and Palm Springs for working with me on this issue.

With this bill, we are able to protect private property rights with strong buffer zone language, willing seller provisions and clearly worded access language. And we are able to further protect these mountains by prohibiting future withdrawals, curbing motorized vehicle use and controlling cattle grazing.

I have said many times that I would not go forth with a bill which does not protect the rights of those individuals who live within the proposed boundary lines and those who live right at the foot of the mountains. This bill strikes an appropriate balance by protecting the rights of affected constituents as well as these unique mountains. I wish to thank Chairman HANSEN and his able staff, Allen Freemyer and Tod Hull, for assisting me in this process so that I could achieve this balance.

In addition, I would like to thank the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy under the direction of Bill Havert, the Desert Chapter of the Building Industry Association and its Executive Director Ed Kibbey and the local branch of the Sierra Club and its head, Joan Taylor.

Too often, environmentalists and private property rights advocates are at odds with one another. In my heart, I believe that we can work to achieve the goals of each group for the betterment of all. It may be the more difficult course to choose, but one well worth taking. So, I would also like to thank my many colleagues, my Legislative Director, Linda

Valter and the rest of my staff who have helped me along this way.

Mr. Speaker, as a child, my parents drove our family all over this wonderful country, visiting National Parks and awe inspiring lands throughout the West. Now, my constituents have given me the opportunity to do something that will allow future families the same privilege. I hope you will all join me to achieve this worthy goal.

OCEANS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2327, The Oceans Act of 2000. This important bill pays tribute to and increases support for one of the most important environmental resources we have—our oceans.

This bill would establish a 16-member Commission on Ocean Policy to review existing federal ocean policy and make recommendations to Congress on a new, coordinated, comprehensive policy.

The oceans play a vital role in the daily lives of millions of Americans. Not only do we go to the ocean for recreation but we also depend upon the resources for our survival. Coastal communities like those in my congressional district, use the ocean for fishing, tourism, and business, among other things. Our oceans also play an important role in the ecological system by providing habitat for numerous species of life and influencing whether we will reduce or worsen other environmental threats such as global warming, flooding, water pollution, endangered species survival, and coral reefs existence.

The coasts and oceans have seen a flood of new development and population migration over the past few decades. In fact, approximately 50 percent of the United States population now live in coastal areas. This will only increase in the future with estimates expecting 75 percent of our population to live in coastal areas by 2025.

We need to ensure that we have a coordinated policy to deal with the pressures our oceans and coastal areas face. Our last effort to update our national policies on oceans was the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources—known as the Stratton Commission—in 1969. I'm pleased that many of the Commission's recommendations are now the law of the land, but it has been far too long since we last updated our ocean policies.

State and local jurisdictions have enacted numerous laws and policies to deal with the environmental problems that have occurred in our oceans and coastal communities. This has resulted in overlapping and conflicting rules between the federal and state levels. The bill we consider today will help alleviate this problem by bringing ocean policy into the 21st Century by creating new coordinated and comprehensive policies.

I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the House version of The Oceans Act of 2000 that my good friend from California, Mr. FARR, introduced. His work on this issue has inspired me and has done a great deal to ensure that our oceans are taken care of.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill today and I thank the leadership for bringing it before the House for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church as it hosts the inaugural session of the American Baptist General Convention of Texas Congress of Christian Workers & State Youth Convention. I want to congratulate Pastor William H. King, III who's leadership touches his congregation and the community in so many ways. I would also like to welcome Pastor Adrian Johnson, president of the convention, along with the young people attending to the city of Dickinson.

Today's youth are growing up in a world very different from the one I knew years ago. We live in an age where most families require two incomes to make ends meet, and nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Our children simply do not have as much supervision or guidance as we did. Add to that, the dangers of drugs and the prevalence of gangs and violence in our schools—as any parent knows, it is not an easy time to raise a family or to be a student.

My father died when I was a young boy, leaving my mother to care for me and my brothers and sister. She couldn't have done it alone. In those days, neighbors looked out for each other and watched out for each other's kids. Our family received support from the entire community. In fact, our friends and neighbors considered us an extension of their own families. That's an important reason why my siblings and I were able to achieve our goals and live the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, now more than ever, our schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples need to stand together with our families to set an example for our children. Our kids are the future and we must invest as much time and energy into their well-being as possible. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Greater Hope Missionary Baptist Church and all of the conventioners as they come together next week in spirit and in faith to learn and grow with one another.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT YOUTH CONGRESS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the 10th Congressional District Youth Congress, whose work on school violence is an inspiring vision of the potential for peace in the human spirit. The tireless work of these students stands as a testament to the ability of youth to lay the foundation for long lasting peace in our schools and communities.